

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

In the Final Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 25-49. By this amendment, independent claims 25 and 36 have been amended. Therefore claims 25-49 remain pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

In the Advisory Action the Examiner stated that the request for reconsideration had been considered but that the request did not place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner's response in the Advisory Action is respectfully traversed.

First, in response to Applicant's argument that the word "printed" as used in the specification does not comprise printing to a computer screen, the Examiner stated that Merchant (U.S. Pat. No. 5,581,366) teaches that "'The form itself can take the form of a physical sheet of paper, a template in a computer word processor or a data file template in memory.' (col. 4, lines 24-27)." Although it is true that Merchant clearly discloses the use of fax forms printed on physical sheets of paper, such paper forms as disclosed in Merchant do not include the features of the claims of the present application. The Applicant appreciates that even the Examiner has never asserted that such paper forms as disclosed in Merchant include the features of the present claims. Rather, the Examiner has argued that the forms of Merchant—only when printed on a computer display screen (50)—anticipate the claims of the present application.

Therefore, so as to clarify the intended meaning of the term "printed" as used in the present claims, the independent claims 25 and 36 have been amended by adding the word "paper" in front of the word "surface." Further, the claimed "area" has been clarified by reciting "the area on the paper surface." These amendments make it clear that the definition of the word "print," cited by the Examiner from the Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 10th edition, including "to display on a surface (as a computer screen) for viewing" is inapposite. Note that the Applicant intends the term paper to include various other paper-like surfaces as, for example, disclosed in the present specification as filed at page 23, lines 7-10 : *"A normal netpage printer prints netpages on sheets of paper. More specialised netpage printers may print onto more specialised surfaces, such as globes. Each printer supports at least one surface type, and supports at least one tag tiling scheme, and hence tag map, for each surface type."*

So even using the very broad definition of the term "print" as cited by the Examiner, the present claims can no longer be argued to read on the computer screen forms of Merchant. Thus the Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not anticipated by Merchant.

Further, the Applicant asserts that the present claims are non-obvious in view of Merchant in light of the difficult technical challenges overcome by the present invention concerning the ability to make ordinary paper as "interactive" as prior art computer screens. See, for example, the present specification at page 8, lines 22-27, where such interactive paper is referred to as a netpage: *"In its preferred form, the netpage system relies on the production of, and human interaction with, netpages. These are pages of text, graphics and images printed on ordinary paper, but which work like interactive web pages. Information is encoded on each page using ink which is substantially invisible to the unaided human eye. The ink, however, and thereby the coded data, can be sensed by an optically imaging pen*

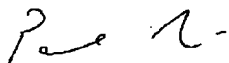
and transmitted to the netpage system."

Next, in the Advisory Action the Examiner stated that the bubbles in Merchant represent "coded data" as per the language of the present claims. Accepting, *arguendo*, that the Examiner's interpretation of the term "coded data" is correct, the bubbles disclosed in Merchant still do not anticipate the presently amended claims because they could be argued to be "indicative of a position of the sensing device relative to the area" (per the present claims) only when printed on the computer display screen (50) of Merchant. When printed on a paper page, such bubbles are nothing more than printed circles.

Therefore, in light of the present amendments to the independent claims, including the limitation of coded data printed on a paper surface, the disclosure in Merchant does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention of the present application. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



PAUL LAPSTUN



KIA SILVERBROOK

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 95557762